

pass them every day.

We feel happiest when farthest away from the digital and industrial technology that dulls our senses, domesticates our bodies, and destroys the places we love. But the encroachment of civilization expands all the time. If you feel the same way then we hope you will begin to act too. You don't have to wait for a particular date.

For wild nature.
For anarchy.

The Coyote Insurgency

AMAZON LOCKER SABOTAGE

Sparks were flying as we cut the power cables on five different amazon lockers in Philly. A small contribution to the struggle against that company and what it's doing to our world. Motherfuckers!!

This action was completed over a few weeks in response to the calls for attacks against them.

Small consistent attacks can do more over time than one spectacular operation, but seeing sparks fly while destroying what aims to destroy us is also pretty fucking spectacular. Big shout outs to Philly, Puget Sound, Paris and beyond for all the kickass May Day actions this year.

Lets take em by surprise and totally fuck their shit up!
Lets get free
Happy May Day still

AGAINST AMAZON AND ITS WORLD

We wrote "Fuck Amazon" on the sides of the Amazon Treasure Truck. Then we set fire to the cab. The boom we heard in the distance suggested it exploded.

There's been almost no media coverage of this except for a short news story about a potential arson, which later got changed to a story that said that officials did not suspect any suspicious activity.

We will continue to fight against Amazon and HQ2, here and elsewhere.★

KEEP MY NAME OUT YOUR MOUTH

Reminder:

Do not speculate about who was involved in direct actions.

Do not talk about yours or others' involvement in direct action with those who weren't involved.

Avoid revisiting these tales with those who were involved.

The more we talk about it, the more names that come out of your mouth, the more likely someone will be arrested for it – whether or not they were involved. ★



FREEDOM FOR J20 DEFENDANTS AN EXCERPT FROM A CALL TO ACTION

While we believe our friends crafting narratives and support around the case have had good intentions, they've spent a great deal of energy honing disingenuous, liberal, reformist rhetoric. We acknowledge that advocating for the '1st amendment activity' and 'innocence' of arrestees to have strategic implications. This being seen through the victories of the first trial's full acquittal and over a hundred dropped cases.

Still, we must beg the question, is this strategy complete? Who does it ultimately benefit, and what are its limits? Are we content with pretending as if the most vibrant displays of resistance that day never occurred? Will we continue to cower away from the means of action we know are necessary to take? When will we say, "we were all there too"? To gain strength and to be effective in this moment require us to evolve with the situation and refuse the disassociation urged to us by the press and political class.

The aversion to militancy is shortsighted. The State kills, incarcerates, and degrades us, each and every day; and they do not need to be given additional reasons to do so. It may be inconvenient to defend actions explicitly outside the law, but we must hold reverence for the vitality of those who truly resist. And we must defend our friends from deference to the well-being of capitalist store-fronts and luxury vehicles. This world, and everything that belongs to it, is hideous and oppressive. And thus, we should be developing a path to depart from it entirely.

Certain comrades have the impression that, on the judicial level, the gravity of the alleged deeds renders the defense of these comrades more difficult. On the contrary, we think that it is the gravity of these deeds that facilitates all well-calculated actions in their favor. Furthermore, attacking banks and other capitalist infrastructure is naturally a serious crime in the eyes of the capitalists, not in the eyes of their enemies, us. We say this is what is blame-worthy: theft of the poor, the humiliation of wage labor, and all the destitution a society based on inequality brings. Others who posit themselves as revolutionaries may think of this case as none of their business, due to disagreements about the efficacy of January 20th's chosen actions or feeling like they have no means of effectively intervening. We seek to expel these objections and invigorate support.

Considering all of this, we believe the time for discourse and strategy around criminal culpability to be finished. We are writing this call, because we desire the cancellation of the May 14th trial or to have this and each subsequent trial come at a cost. This hostage situation cannot continue.

Rather than looking at this matter as a judicial one, we should see it as an issue of power relations. Through this lens, we can see the problem of how to defend these comrades does not need to be accorded by law, but by action. If there isn't a movement to demand the freedom of these friends forcefully and with sufficient defense, then we should assume they're headed behind bars.

We are calling for an unrelenting, diffuse, solidarity campaign until our comrades are entirely released from their present repressive situation. For an up-tick of visibility to pervade our movements worldwide, and for concentrated actions in the days ahead of the May 14th trial, and then more one or two weeks ahead of each subsequent trial if the trials persist. ★

AN ANARCHIST PERIODICAL FROM THE OCCUPIED LENAPE TERRITORY KNOWN AS PHILADELPHIA

ANATHEMA

Volume IV

May 2018 - Free

Issue V



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- WHAT WENT DOWN - 2
- UPDATE ON THE ECONOMY - 2
- DECADENCE AND RISK - 3
- TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS & THE MODERN WORLD - 4
- MAY DAY COMMUNIQUEs - 6
- FREEDOM FOR J20 DEFENDANTS: CALL TO ACTION - 8
- KEEP MY NAME OUT YOUR MOUTH - 8

anathema.noblogs.org ★ anathemaphl@riseup.net

WHAT WENT DOWN

December & April: \$112,000 worth of designer purses and handbags stolen from the King of Prussia Mall.

Mid April: A bulldozer is sabotaged in solidarity with the ZAD and Camp White Pine. “An attack has just been made, throwing a wrench in the cogs of the machinery of progress... well more literally some wires were cut and windows smashed on one of their bullshit bulldozers”

April 16: 704 pounds of dynamite and 400 blasting caps are reported stolen from a Lancaster County pipeline construction site. The stolen explosives were recovered April 20 also in Lancaster County, but not before the contracting company’s blasting permit was suspended.

April 19: Two Gilchrist county sheriff’s deputies were shot dead in Downtown Trenton, NJ through the window of a Chinese food restaurant while they ate.

March – May: *More than a dozen actions recorded in the collection of communiqués since May Day on page 6.*

May 7: A banner against Wells Fargo funding weapons manufacturing, and pipelines is hung during a Sixers playoff game within the stadium.★

UPDATE ON THE ECONOMY

Despite the much-hyped shakeup represented by Trump’s presidential election and his reputation for unorthodox policymaking, the U.S. has never recovered from the 2007 economic recession, whether by climbing out of its massive deficit nor replacing lost jobs. The economic system continues to evade collapse, but is still on a slow decline that will likely keep producing significant social unrest.

In April, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the government’s annual deficit would spiral to over \$1 trillion by 2020, two years ahead of previous estimates. The U.S.’s debt has been a serious problem for years; it’s well known that the deficit’s continued growth will eventually lead to the U.S. either getting cut off from its creditors or getting charged higher interest rates. This will be a nightmare scenario for the U.S., forcing higher austerity measures and possibly the kind of social rebellions that have emerged in places like Greece under similar conditions.

Following this news, media outlets have scrambled to retain trust in the U.S. economy, which is a pillar

of the global capitalist system. Newspapers such as The Washington Post have started running stories to the effect of, “Is an enormous deficit really such a bad thing?,” while liberal-leaning economists have rushed to defend protectionist measures as a progressive and effective policy approach.

The reported 3.9% unemployment rate has been enthusiastically celebrated, constituting a new low since 2000. These numbers, however, are actually driven by a trend in which more and more people are leaving the workforce altogether. This means they are no longer being counted amongst the unemployed, thus driving up the ratio of employed to unemployed people. For example, the number of people employed in April increased by 164,000. But at the same time, the number of unemployed dropped by 239,000 — hence the enhanced employment ratio.

The labor participation rate (the percentage of the entire population who are employed or actively looking for work) presents a much more chilling picture. Labor participation has only continued to decline since the 2007 recession, from a high of 67.3% in 2000 to 63%. Such numbers speak to the reality that Capital tends to grow only at the expense of the labor force on which it depends. The rise of the gig economy, automation, the slow death of retail at the hands of corporations like Amazon, and the overall expulsion of more and more people from the official workforce have all contributed to squeezing out profits in the years since 2007. This has allowed the U.S. economy to carry on, but not in such a way that has improved the lives of everyday people.

For example, though there has been an increase in manufacturing jobs since the economy began to crash in 2007, in historical context the current numbers are very low, especially considering the U.S.’s massive population growth. While the number of jobs is now the same as there were in 1941, actually the percentage of the population employed in manufacturing in 1941 was around 9%, and is now only 3.8%. There is no macroeconomic evidence that manufacturing jobs will have a strong return to the U.S.

Similarly, unemployment for black Americans is still double that of whites, and has been since 1954 when these statistics first started being taken.

The truth is that the U.S. is struggling to maintain a minimum growth needed to maintain the global economic system, and there are no indications that it will be able to find ways out of its current impasses. Job and wage growth are relatively stagnant and the deficit continues to teeter on the brink of disaster. In the meantime, stories about how Trump is going against the establishment to resuscitate American jobs are expected to continue.★

surveillance on the spur of the moment.

Fuck yuppies...You can’t buy safety, this is social war! If you move into gentrifying neighborhoods, your shit will get fucked with!

Shoutout to all our friends helping tear down Amazon one Ring at a time!

ANTI-AMAZON BANNER AT WHOLE FOODS

This banner was dropped during the afternoon on May Day at the Whole Foods on South St. As the banner outstretched, we also dropped around 500 of these fliers to let those below know that the unification of Whole Foods and Amazon is just another insidious step in Amazon’s attempt to monopolize and control our lives entirely.

Whole Foods rests on a reputation of ‘fair’ pay and flexibility, community and support; but like all work, actually encourages a culture of alienation, domination, self-policing and snitching on your coworkers to maintain a false sense of security.

This was also a shout-out to Amazon and Whole Foods workers, and an encouragement to all to drag our feet more, take more breaks, and lie to our bosses.

We see through the thin facade and are against the greenwashed neo-liberalism that is Whole Foods Market. Fuck all jobs, fuck Amazon, steal pay, steal candy.

[Flier text: It’s 2018, and the dystopian future we have feared is here. Cybernetics, misery and boredom are fully integrated into our lives... Amazon is a monopoly on our day to day activities, relations and desire Amazone wants to recreate this world as a sterilized and monitored wasteland, with no privacy and no free will. We reject their world. We want freedom. We want joy. We want life without measure. FTL (A) FTP]

RE: BILLBOARD-SIZED BANNER DROPS

You’ve already seen some of our work: two ten by twenty-four foot banners repurposed from billboard advertisements for a world made into property to be bought and sold. No, “we don’t want their jobs, we don’t want their world.” We want to “abolish work, rediscover life,” and fuck up the flow of capitalism as we celebrated May Day – so we hung three large banners low enough that they would interfere with rush hour traffic on all three major highways in Philly on Tuesday morning. The third banner read, “Fuck ur job. Fuck work. General Strike. Happy May Day.” We lowered them slowly in already congested traffic to avoid causing an accident.

We wanted to play with the idea of a banner being more than a message, more than a subversion of the advertising that it was previously used for, and envisioned it as a soft

barricade. Play and creativity are valuable, bringing us joy and inspiring further liberating activities. With that, may you continue to find joy in your own attacks and resistance.

A WALK IN THE PARK

I was walking through Fairmount park last night when I came across something that made me sick. Construction equipment littered an area once filled with trees, an area that is now home to what will eventually be a climbing course. All “progress” makes me sick but there’s something almost ironic about cutting down trees to build something to climb. I acted only with what was in my backpack, a can of green spray paint. On the vehicles that had front windshields, I gave them a beautiful forest green coating. I know that, at the most, their destruction of what was once a forest will only be delayed a few short hours. I’m not a fool, I know I don’t have the proper understanding of those machines needed to truly sabotage them. Instead, I hope the green splotches that temporarily cloud their view remind them of the green that only a few years ago, existed on that plot of land. There’s something extremely unsettling about a place once natural that I can’t even find a simple rock needed to smash out these windows. For now, this will have to be enough.

I wonder why local anarchists haven’t done more to fight against these toxic machines that appear on almost every block in the city. Is it because we’re a city now dominated by red and black social anarchists, who would rather wear red to a demonstration and stand in the street, than take the actions needed to defend ourselves and what remains of our planet? I feel no affinity with these people. Their struggle isn’t mine and it never will be. Their utopia doesn’t exist. It never will.

I claim this little action in solidarity with pipeline protestors everywhere, the Zadists struggling against both state repression and the disgusting plague of authoritarian communists and liberals that have infected their space, and most importantly, the fox and raccoon that I met while wandering through this mess of a construction site.

Strike against progress
Strike against isolation
Strike against domination
Destroy everything
It ain’t easy being green

I claim this action on behalf of the Summer Of Rage Anarchist Crew. With this name I remind myself that with a mask on, anyone can become my comrade

CELL PHONE TOWER FIRE

Two playful fox friends showed us the way to the cell phone antennae tower. The cable housing caught fire quickly and the flames began to climb the spire. It was easy to do and reminded us how many targets there are all around us. We

MAY DAY ROUND-UP

The call for decentralized action around May Day that circulated in March seems to have resulted in more reports of actions around that day, though it also seems to be where many anarchist energies have been going for some time. There were also the usual kind of public marches for immigrant rights, a teachers' union, and a presumably less newsworthy black bloc (as the local media just ran a photo from last year's bloc after briefly describing this one), in addition to speeches delivered by radicals outside of City Hall.

Some lament that we didn't do anything that was newsworthy enough while simultaneously propagating a clear message, like the demo in Kensington last year. But there was also speculation that varying our tactics so as to be less predictable had its advantages, and that a formal demo might have reduced the number of clandestine actions.

We should continue to have these kinds of discussions, though it may sometimes be difficult to come to firm conclusions, while we also continue to realize our desires in action. It only serves to sharpen our analysis and action as we discuss what has happened and what is to come. In that vein, we compiled the communiqués submitted to Philly Anti-Cap since May 1st and reprinted them here.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Happy May Day y'all. Since public marches aren't quite our thing, we decided to head out into the night to cause some trouble as soon as the clock struck 12 am, May 1st. We wandered throughout the side streets of brewery town, giving plenty of those nice new Resnik developer buildings some much needed paint jobs, smashing windows is always a good time, but for this little adventure, we felt that it would cause just as much damage and cost as much money to fix if we painted their windows a nice sleek shade of black. We also took the time to sabotage their locks in a bunch of fun, easy to reproduce ways. On the way, we also stumbled across the vehicle of a yuppie "clean energy" company. We figured this would look much better with some big black streaks on it so we gave it a sweet paint job (free of charge of course). Hope that's a friendly reminder that we don't give a fuck about your capitalist version of sustainable future and more importantly, stay the fuck outta our hoods with your ugly gentrified houses.

We went on this little adventure with the memories of the anarchists slain both in the labor struggles in Haymarket square, and for those murdered in the struggle against domination, the memory of their attacks have warmed our hearts and fueled our mischievous deeds. We also took these actions in memory of David Jones who was murdered by the terrorist pig Ryan Pownell, and in solidarity with those

struggling against Temple's new stadium, and our comrades arrested on May Day last year.

The Summer of Rage has begun! Get your sun screen on because it's gonna be a hot one! From May 1st-September 21st, every troublemaker, criminal, anti fascist, crime-doer, and anti-authoritarian is invited to join the Summer of Rage Anarchist Crew. Plan some free picnics for your community, paint some fun slogans and pictures on those boring city walls, break whatever you want, have a bonfire with whoever you want wherever you want and most importantly, remind our friends at OCF, Resnik Developers, and all their little gentrifying buddies that Philly belongs to us. Have a great summer

-SORAC

LOCKS SABOTAGED FOR MAY DAY

We decided to glue the locks of two gentrifying reality offices in philly. we got one, but at our second target there was a ucd cop posted up, so instead we went and glued the locks of the ucd police headquarters.

happy may day

BANNER FOR HAYMARKET MARTYRS OVER HIGHWAY

Spotted on the way to center city! "Engels, Fischer, Parsons, Spies – Never Surrender [Circle A]"

SECURITY CAMERAS DESTROYED IN PHILLY

Over the past two months in gentrifying neighborhoods in Philly, security cameras have gone flying into construction sites, been crushed under car tires, and thrown into gutters, never to be recovered. This included cameras on one particular house in Point Breeze that its occupants had tried to use to incriminate someone for an exciting crime last year.

Watch out snitches!

We estimate that we took down around 20 regular security cameras and 20 doorbell cameras made by Ring, a company that Amazon recently bought in order to expand their hellish corporate hold on our dreams and purchasing habits into the delightful realm of home security and DIY policing.

Along the way, we learned that the Ring cameras come in different sizes & colors and to look for a blue ring around the doorbell button. We also learned that Amazon has a guarantee to replace stolen or broken Ring cameras for free, so stealing them costs the corporation directly, at a rate of \$99-249 per camera depending on the model.

We noticed that tooling around the neighborhood looking for cameras came in really handy down the line when planning other actions, since it made us already familiar with which routes would be safest, and enhanced our ability to recognize

DECADENCE AND RISK

We all want nice things, most of us balk at being told what to do, and some more of us kind of like the thrill of doing something we could get caught for, especially given the excruciatingly boring reality we're expected to endure in order to maintain our everyday life in this society. That's why consumerism is at an all-time high, despite simultaneous personal debts and unemployment, and why it's generally expected that people enjoy doing bad stuff on the weekends, so long as they cut loose just enough to go back to work for another week.

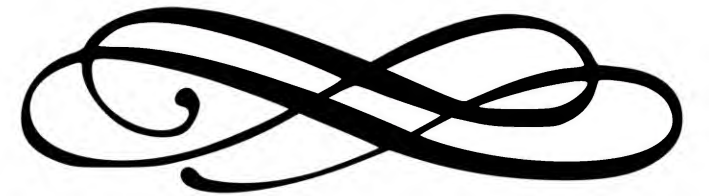
U.S. anarchism's reputation for austereself-sacrifice and enforcing subcultural norms of poverty, poor hygiene and drab colorless outfits has arguably not done much to attract new people to the Cause, except maybe people who are looking to atone for the guilt of a privileged background. This is one reason that many anarchists appreciate the portrayal of ourselves by conservatives and Leftists alike as uncontrollable, excessive, immoral and dangerous. There's a seductive quality to anarchy's chaotic illegibility and unpredictability — which condo building will they attack next? Who is Summer of Rage? Will anyone remember to come to this meeting? — that is supposed to be terrifying and ineffective from afar, but in our experience is one of the most alluring and intoxicating aspects of being exposed to anarchist life.

In contrast to the puritanical impulses of today's social justice movements, illegalism — an outgrowth of individualist anarchism that originated in the late 19th century in Europe and embraces a criminal lifestyle — provides a way to offer things to people, from the basics of what we need to survive to decadent treats that we couldn't otherwise afford and wouldn't want to pay for anyway. From stealing food to larger-scale expropriation, illegalism offers the possibility of abundance attained on our own terms, rather than through submission to Capital and authority.

Through its associated risks, an illegalist life also offers a specific form of empowerment that going along with capitalism never could. This fundamental anarchist idea has a rich philosophical basis in other revolutionary and theoretical traditions. Franz Fanon, the theorist of decolonial liberation, cites Hegel's metaphor of master and slave to argue that only when

the slave is prepared to risk their life that freedom and selfhood can be attained: "It is solely by risking life that freedom is obtained...The individual who has not staked his life may, no doubt, be recognized as a Person; but he has not attained the truth of this recognition as an independent self-consciousness." Risking one's life, in turn, necessitates conflict and struggle.

Embracing our ability to get what we want for ourselves is especially important for those of us whose relationship to social hierarchies and the economic system has historically been seen as making us undeserving, criminal, or less than human. Despite the ever-more sophisticated placations that capital offers us, though, there's no substitute for freedom and the life of danger and joy that give scattered glimpses of what that freedom might look like. ★



**factories don't
burn down
by themselves...**

Learn to Burn.

**they need help
from you.**



TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS & THE MODERN WORLD

“There are more transistors in the world today than there are leaves on all the trees in all the world.”

In an interview about his new book on precision and the modern world, Simon Winchester questioned whether we had gone too far. When making things to withstand such incredible tolerances, the components have to be incredibly precise, otherwise you have the example he gave of an airplane wing becoming irreparably damaged in flight due to a fraction of a millimeter of an error. He elaborated that we might be “in danger of fetishizing precision,” constructing our lives around it, and losing respect for simple skills and hand-made things.

You might notice that we don’t usually advocate half-measures in these pages. The life of an anti-capitalist under capitalism is often a life of compromise, for fear of imprisonment or death at the hands of the state, but we aspire to be so much more – and those times that appear as compromise may only be a disguise to keep us free as we continue to escalate our conflict. The recent spate of communiqués surrounding May Day seems to attest to that.

During one of the May Day speeches beside City Hall, a member of the Radical Education Department suggested that “we need to go on the offensive” – and they are more right than they know. But with the continuation of absolute atrocities against the earth and its inhabitants (e.g. poisoned water, poisoned air, massive deforestation, indigenous genocide, racist murders by police), we would have a long way to go before we overcame our defensive position – meaning it is only more necessary that we attack, and do so by every means available.

“By insurrectional practice we mean the revolutionary activity that intends to take the initiative in the struggle and does not limit itself to waiting or to simple defensive responses to attacks by the structures of power.”

- For an Antiauthoritarian Insurrectionist International

In a recent report by Counterpunch, it was put forth that environmentalists contribute to deforestation due to their consistent compromises with the state, maintaining the course of removing what very little remains of an already decimated landscape. Similarly, marching in the streets over those aforementioned atrocities, and asking the authorities in charge of those that committed them to address that “injustice,” doesn’t even begin to get to the point. Relying on accrued examples of earth-devastating malfeasance by a drilling company, as some residents are doing in “opposition” to the Mariner East 2 pipeline, again, doesn’t halt the problem – and doesn’t really address the technological advances that allow for horizontal drilling, which has similarly made new advances in further contaminating our groundwater.

And what do they gain for their sacrifices? “Electronics-recycling innovator is going to prison for trying to extend computers’ lives.” On April 29th, it was reported that “Mahwah, NJ is fining Ramapough [Lenape Indians protesting proposed pipeline] up to \$42,500 per day for prayer and sacred altar retroactively since March 29, 2018.” Bureaucracy prevails, as Mumia can’t even get a new trial under progressive DA Larry Krasner, despite lying and tampering by cops involved in testimony and evidence gathering, and overt racism by the judge. Whether or not you believe he did it (which really shouldn’t matter anyway), by the state’s own logic he should get a new trial.

The food and water in prisons, among other conditions in those modern slave plantations, have contributed to riots occurring in recent months – months ahead of a proposed prison strike beginning in August.

Meanwhile, the food and water we consume on the outside is also less nutritious than the wild foods that persisted before agriculture, and incredibly tainted. Industrial food production has recently contributed to E. coli outbreaks in Romaine Lettuce and ready-to-eat salads produced in PA, listeria contamination of milk in Lancaster County, staphylococcal enterotoxin and clostridial toxin contamination of beef, the contamination of sausages and beef in two different states with hard pieces of plastic – and that’s only since our last printing.

“Nearly 70% of Chicago’s tap water tested positive for brain damaging lead,” reads a headline, in the continuing tradition of poisonings that still affect Flint, MI; Chester, PA; and Philadelphia, among so many others.

The New York Times reported last month that a Sperm Whale was killed by 64 pounds of trash that clogged its intestines and stomach, further stating that “as the amount of plastic in the ocean grows every year, some scientists believe that debris might kill more animals than the effects of climate change.” Yes, more than climate change: the human-induced mass-extinction event.



“Today’s ecological crises are a warning sign that capitalism itself is not sustainable. The problem is not that we lack

reformist legislation; the problem is that our economic system fundamentally disconnects us from the environment.” Additionally, those technologies developed alongside the growth of that economic system contribute to our alienation from the natural world and to the economic system’s control over our lives.

The potential expiration of “Net Neutrality” on June 11th is not the end of freedom on the internet. Being conceptualized as a “right,” provided by the large corporations that provide the necessary infrastructure for that communication, means that legal use of the internet is already mediated and therefore not free. Freedom means having power – not the power to control other people or their means to communicate (consider how internet service providers already slow down to control the circumstances of one’s own life. You do not have freedom if anyone else has power over you, no matter how benevolently, tolerantly and permissively that power may be exercised.

“Facebook harvested 3.5 billion Instagram images without warning their owners” until much later, as they built an Artificial Intelligence photo recognition system. French police were recently revealed to also be using AI to “predict protests and neutralise them,” and “Facebook terms now ban posting photos of undercover agents infiltrating your political group, protest, etc.” – those very same infiltrators that have entrapped activists leading to long prison sentences when no crime had been committed (e.g. Eric McDavid).

“Five journalists arrested while covering Standing Rock still face charges – more than one year later,” reads a headline from two weeks ago, and 59 J20 defendants are still suffering the stresses and costs of fighting decades in prison for attending a protest. It’s a wonder anyone attends protests at all considering the potential costs incurred for so little return. But I guess a student walkout at Temple University in favor of sanctuary status on May Day in a state that “is a free-for-all” for cops that want to arrest undocumented immigrants is really the least you can do.

The two black men being arrested in a local Starbucks minutes after arriving, as they awaited the arrival of another member of their party, is not a new development, but its sensationalism has contributed to this common trend becoming news-worthy. Recent nationwide reports of white people calling the cops on black people having a cookout, on a black Yale student for napping in a common area, on black teenagers for shopping at a Nordstrom, on black folks for checking out of their Airbnb, on five black women for not golfing fast enough at a country club, popularly exhibit the racial profiling that leads to the higher rates of incarceration and murder by police. Take the example of the black man murdered outside of a California Walmart when cops fired 30 rounds into a vehicle after he was suspected of theft, and also wounded one of the passengers. Or the Democracy Now! report that a “black teen [was] sentenced to 30 years in prison for a murder committed by cop.” Then there were the examples of “Native American brothers pulled from campus

tour after nervous parent calls police,” and the “young Santee Sioux man shot by police officer while being dragged on the ground.”

Those old fallbacks of modernity that claim we’re better off now, as life is safer and easier than it once was, seem mostly unfounded by this only partial round-up of recent news reports. Even before mentioning that the World Health Organization is now warning that “common infections and minor injuries which have been possible to treat for decades may once again kill millions” due to the overuse of antibiotics. Those complex surgeries and cancers that the developed world has been so triumphant in treating, even though it has been the creator of many of the causes of those illnesses, are suddenly becoming extremely difficult to treat. And to add insult to injury, Business Insider reports that “the average American worker takes less vacation time than a medieval peasant.”

The so-called popular alternatives presented to us and advocated for in order to reach the masses, defer to the same Bernie Sanders who once advocated for the dissolution of the CIA, but now just appeals for a less overtly offensive head for the organization that notoriously contributed to assassinations and torture as a matter of course. Socialist mouthpiece Jacobin can write a whole article on Brexit without mentioning its racially motivated anti-immigrant policies. Local “independent” news site, the Philadelphia Citizen, can propagate its founder’s opinion that we need Amazon to build its HQ2 in Philly to keep the college transplants here, despite the consequent gentrification that will continue to force out already marginalized residents. These are continuations of the path that have led to the deadly-serious, alienated reality that we currently suffer.

Compromise continues the trajectory and we can’t afford to stay the course. ★

